

Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Boulevard East  
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

May 8, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/NWR – D. Robert Lohn

FROM: F/NWC – Usha Varanasi, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: WLC-TRT Viability Criteria Report

I am pleased to send you the enclosed document produced by the Willamette/Lower Columbia Technical Recovery Team (WLC-TRT). The *Interim Report on Viability Criteria for Willamette and Lower Columbia Basin Pacific Salmonids* describes metrics developed by the WLC-TRT for identifying viable salmon populations and Evolutionary Significant Units (ESUs). These analyses build on previous draft viability documents produced by the WLC-TRT and reflect consideration of comments received on previous WLC-TRT viability drafts from both scientists and resource managers.

The WLC-TRT was initially charged with developing the technical foundation for measurable and objective delisting criteria for ESA listed salmon and steelhead in the WLC recovery domain. This report is in response to that task. As noted in the report, the development of final delisting criteria will require additional policy-technical interaction and this report is but one step in the process. However, it is a significant step that should benefit salmon recovery efforts. The report is a complete synthesis of the WLC-TRT's work on the topic to date, but is titled "Interim" to indicate that the report does not reflect final delisting criteria. Additional technical analysis and policy interaction may result in modified WLC-TRT recommendations as recovery planning progresses. Work is underway through the Willamette/Lower Columbia ESA Executive Committee (the recovery planning "phase II" policy group for the domain) to align the TRT's work with co-managers' work on recovery goals for the ESUs in the domain. We expect to be able to present "interim goals" to the public within the next few months.

The WLC-TRT has made an effort to coordinate with other Technical Recovery Teams on the West Coast in developing these criteria. The criteria developed by the WLC-TRT are believed consistent with, but not identical to, criteria developed in other domains, as each domain has certain unique characteristics.

We would be happy to answer any questions you have about the enclosed documents or to arrange a briefing to discuss them. Please feel free to contact Dr. Paul McElhany at the NWFSC.